

NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CORIS.

BY

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CORIS REX. sp. nov.

D. 9/12; A. 3/12; V. 1/5; P. 13; C. 14; L. lat. 98; L. trans. 11/38.

Length of head $4\frac{1}{2}$, height of body $3\frac{9}{10}$ in the total length. *Eyes*—small, diameter $\frac{1}{7}$ of the length of head, $\frac{2}{5}$ of that of snout, and $\frac{5}{8}$ of the convex interorbital space. Upper jaw rather the longer; the maxilla extends to the vertical from the posterior nostril. *Teeth*—in both jaws in a double series, the inner of which is minute; a pair of strong canines in front of either jaw, those of the lower jaw fitting between the upper ones when the mouth is closed; the upper jaw has a strong curved tooth behind each anterior canine; about ten lateral teeth on each ramus; these decrease in size gradually from the front; a pair of posterior canines at each angle of the mouth. *Fins*—The dorsal commences midway between the base of the pectoral and the hind limb of the preopercle; its spines are moderately strong, subequal in length, as long as the snout: the anal commences opposite the soft dorsal; its third spine is longest, not nearly so long as the last dorsal spine: pectorals well developed, equal to the distance between the front margin of the eye and the point of the opercular flap: outer ventral ray elongate, rather longer than the pectorals, and reaching to the vent: caudal slightly rounded. *Lateral line*—curved beneath the ninth and tenth dorsal rays; its tubules simple. *Colors*—reddish-brown, inclining to salmon-color below; a broad purplish-brown band between the seventh and eighth dorsal spines and the anus; this is margined on either side by a

narrower greyish band, the anterior of which partly surrounds an oblong vertical gamboge-yellow patch, which lies immediately behind and beneath the posterior margin of the pectoral fin; the lower limb of the preopercle, the interopercle, and the head above the eye are pale sea-green; lips, cheeks, hinder limb of preopercle, and the opercle pale red, except the opercular flap, which is blue: posterior half of the body ornamented with twelve narrow whitish M-shaped vertical streaks, the central part, which occupies the greater portion of the height, being semicircular with the convexity forward. Dorsal blue with a narrow pale basal band; anal and caudal fins bluish with pale blotches at the base and an irregular reddish median line: pectorals bright red at the base, opalescent in the middle, and broadly tipped and margined with deep blue: ventrals immaculate.

This magnificent fish was taken on the 13th instant, by Mr. G. Billington off Bondi Heads. It measures 16.50 inches, and is in fine condition, but shows no signs of breeding. Its stomach contained numerous remains of crustaceans and molluscs, all considerably broken up; among the latter Mr. Brazier has identified *Urosalpinx tritoniformis*, *Mitra badia*, *Gibbula strangei*, and a species each of *Natica* and *Clanculus*. The specimen has been presented by its captor to the Australian Museum, where its registered number is B. 9902.